AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated below. The language being added is underlined ("__") and the language being deleted contains a strikethrough ("——").

Please insert the following annotated paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 10 (paragraph [0029]):

[0029] Please note the following. In the preferred embodiment explained in the specification, the counter tracks the number of unavailable descriptors 74. However, the counter 46 could just as easily track the number of free descriptors 74 remaining. In this case, instead of counting up, the counter 46 counts down. Also, note that even though a masking circuit 50 is depicted in FIG. 1, the masking circuit is not necessarily required and therefore, should not be taken as a limitation. As stated previously, most host systems 60 would like to be notified as soon as possible when an ok packet is received, and even though the error signal is blocked from notifying the CPU 80 of the host system 60, there are other parts of the NIC 10 or host system that would like to track the number of error packets received. Therefore, a masking circuit 50 is employed to allow the ok signal to pass through to the CPU 80 but not the error signal. One final note, the comparator 42, threshold memory 44, and counter 46 are not limited to being positioned within the Receive DMA module 40.

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